



Lisa Murkowski

U.S. Senator - Alaska

ANCHORAGE SKYLINE AT DUSK

[Home Page](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Contact Me](#)

Washington, D.C. Office
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington D.C., 20510
202-224-6665
Fax 202-224-5301

Anchorage Office
510 L Street, Suite 550
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-271-3735
Fax 907-276-4081

Fairbanks Office
101 12th Avenue
Room 216
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-0233
Fax 907-451-7146

Juneau Delegation Office
P.O. Box 21247
709 West 9th Street, Room 971
Juneau, AK 99802
907-586-7400
Fax 907-586-8922

Kenai Delegation Office
110 Trading Bay Road
Suite 105
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-5808
Fax 907-283-4363

Ketchikan Delegation Office
540 Water Street
Suite 101
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-6880
Fax 907-225-0390

MatSu Delegation Office
851 East Westpoint Drive
Suite 307
Wasilla, AK 99654

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I look forward to being home next week during our October Senate recess and traveling the State to meet with constituents. I plan not only to give Washington, D.C., updates in many communities, but I also want to hear from you about what is going on in your community. Next week I'll be in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, and Skagway.

[CLICK HERE FOR SENATOR MURKOWSKI'S COLUMBUS DAY RECESS SCHEDULE](#)

THE NEXT NOMINEE

During this, the first week of the new Supreme Court session, I'm pleased that we have received the nomination of Harriet Miers so that we may quickly begin the confirmation process and fill the remaining Court vacancy. I'm also pleased that the President has nominated a woman to fill the vacancy left by Sandra Day O'Connor. I'm looking forward to the confirmation process and to learning more about Harriet Miers. It is important that we ensure a fair and thorough hearing, a civil and dignified debate on the Senate floor, followed by an up or down vote on Harriet Miers' nomination. The Senate moved quickly and fairly during the confirmation of Chief Justice John Roberts, and I expect the same during this next round of hearings.

FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This week, the Senate unanimously passed reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The unanimous Senate passage shows that the Congress recognizes the importance of continuing and strengthening services that support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and I'm proud to be a cosponsor of the Act.

VAWA provides grant money for states to implement programs and work toward prevention of domestic abuse and sexual assault. Alaska's problems with domestic violence and sexual assault have been ongoing - in 18 out of the last 25 years, Alaska has ranked number one in the nation for the highest rate of reported rapes. Alaska Natives are victims of sexual assault and rape more often than any other population. The Violence Against Women Act has provided invaluable grant resources to many Alaska communities and has prevented the State from spiraling deeper into the cycle of domestic abuse. In order to break the cycle of abuse in Alaska and across the country, we must be able to provide continued federal support.

MEETING EMERGENCY NEEDS

907-376-7665
Fax 907-376-8526

Bethel Delegation Office
P.O. Box 1030
311 Willow Street
Building 3
Bethel, AK 99559
907-543-1639
Fax 907-543-1637

Recently, I toured the Red Cross Disaster Operations Center and met with Red Cross officials who are coordinating the response to the Gulf Coast Hurricanes. The men and women of the Red Cross are working hard to provide everything from food and shelter, casework services and crisis counseling to the Hurricane evacuees. I was impressed with their dedication and commitment. The visit also drove home the need for all of us to prepare communication plans, so family and friends know how to best keep in touch with loved ones in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.



Sen. Murkowski tours the Red Cross Disaster Response Headquarters with Eric Jones, Emergency Management Liaison

Another good idea is to create an In Case of Emergency (ICE) phonebook entry in your cell phone. By entering the acronym ICE into your cell phone's phone book, users can log the name and number of someone who should be contacted in an emergency. This simple step could enormously help first responders deliver emergency information if you happen to be unconscious or without identification in a crisis.

SENATOR MURKOWSKI'S COLUMBUS DAY RECESS SCHEDULE

Fairbanks, Saturday, October 8- Sen. Murkowski will present Melody Jamieson with the Angel in Adoption award on behalf of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI). The ceremony will be held from 2:30 to 3:00 pm at the Pikes Waterfront Lodge in the Copper Room with a brief reception to follow the award presentation.

Ketchikan, Monday, October 10- Sen. Murkowski will speak at the Oktoberfest Celebration sponsored by First City Republican Women and District 1 Republicans starting at 7:00 pm at the Cape Fox Lodge.

Ketchikan, Tuesday, October 11- The Senator will speak at a lunch sponsored by Rotary 2000 which will include invited members of First City Rotary, Chamber members and guests at Steamers on the Dock at 12:00 noon.

Sitka, Wednesday, October 12- Sen. Murkowski will deliver remarks to the Sitka Chamber of Commerce at 12:00 noon at the Westmark Sitka.

Juneau, Thursday, October 13- The Senator will speak to the Juneau Gastineau Rotary, at the Prospector at 7:00 am.

Then, Sen. Murkowski will attend the Juneau Republican Women's "It's Getting Chili in October" event at the Aspen Hotel starting at 6:00 pm.

Skagway, Thursday, October 13- Senator Murkowski will address a combined meeting of the Skagway and Haines Chambers of Commerce at 12:00 noon at the White Pass Depot.



Sen. Murkowski with Jeff Brune, the recipient of a 2005 Take Pride in America Award. Brune directs the Bureau of Land Management's Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage and received the award from the American Recreation Coalition for leading upgrades to Center trails, trail rerouting and painting, and the instillation of new computer education programs.

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